

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 170

Expressing United States policy toward the Republic of Bulgaria.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 1999

Mr. GILMAN (for himself and Mr. MICA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing United States policy toward the Republic of
Bulgaria.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Elections held in April 1997 in the Republic
6 of Bulgaria brought to office a government com-
7 mitted to full economic reforms, discipline in govern-
8 ment budgetary and currency policies, increased for-
9 eign, direct investment in Bulgaria, and energetic ef-
10 forts to combat corrupt and criminal activities that
11 had undermined previous economic reforms.

1 (2) The Government of the Republic of Bul-
2 garia has worked to ensure the proper treatment of
3 its citizens, regardless of ethnic background, includ-
4 ing those of ethnic Turkish background, many of
5 whom were subjected to forced assimilation cam-
6 paigns and deportation under the former communist
7 regime in Bulgaria.

8 (3) The Government of the Republic of Bul-
9 garia has made Bulgaria's integration into pan-Eu-
10 ropean and trans-Atlantic institutions, including the
11 European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Or-
12 ganization (NATO), the highest priority of its for-
13 eign policy, and has undertaken efforts to promote
14 stability in southeastern Europe and the Black Sea
15 region.

16 (4) The economy of the Republic of Bulgaria
17 has suffered considerable decline due to the disrup-
18 tion of important markets caused by the break-up of
19 the former, Soviet-dominated "COMECON" eco-
20 nomic and trade organization, the application of
21 international sanctions on Iraq, and the failure of
22 the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria to con-
23 front widespread corrupt activities prior to the elec-
24 tions of April 1997 that resulted in the theft of large

1 sums from both government and industry and that
2 bankrupted many Bulgarian banks.

3 (5) The economy of the Republic of Bulgaria
4 has suffered as well from the imposition of inter-
5 national sanctions on neighboring Serbia and con-
6 tinues to suffer from the conflict in that country,
7 which has disrupted commerce throughout the re-
8 gion of southeastern Europe.

9 (6) The Government of the Republic of Bul-
10 garia has recently taken steps to finalize bilateral
11 agreements with the neighboring Republic of Mac-
12 edonia, recognized by the United States as the
13 “Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, over-
14 coming a long-standing dispute over the language to
15 be used in those agreements.

16 (7) The Government of the Republic of Bul-
17 garia has undertaken to reform Bulgaria’s armed
18 forces, adopting a military doctrine to that effect in
19 March 1999.

20 (8) The Government of the Republic of Bul-
21 garia has stated its continuing support for the mis-
22 sion of NATO in supporting democratization and
23 stability across Europe.

24 (9) As a result of the conflict in Serbia with re-
25 gard to the region of Kosovo, the Republic of Bul-

1 garia has accepted several thousand refugees from
2 the conflict.

3 **SEC. 2. POLICY TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA.**

4 It is the policy of the United States—

5 (1) to promote the development in the Republic
6 of Bulgaria of a market-based economy and a demo-
7 cratic government that respects the rights of all of
8 its citizens, regardless of ethnic background;

9 (2) to support the territorial integrity of the
10 Republic of Bulgaria;

11 (3) to insist that the territorial integrity of the
12 Republic of Bulgaria be respected by neighboring
13 countries and by all political movements within and
14 outside Bulgaria; and

15 (4) to support the integration of the Republic
16 of Bulgaria into pan-European and trans-Atlantic
17 economic and security institutions.

18 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

19 It is the sense of Congress that—

20 (1) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria
21 is to be commended for its efforts to ensure proper
22 treatment of all of its citizens, regardless of ethnic
23 background, particularly those of ethnic Turkish
24 background;

1 (2) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria
2 is to be commended—

3 (A) for its efforts to accelerate the privat-
4 ization of state-owned enterprises in a fair and
5 transparent process;

6 (B) for its establishment of a currency
7 board to ensure the value of the Bulgarian cur-
8 rency; and

9 (C) for its efforts to combat corrupt and
10 criminal activities that undermine reforms and
11 the viability of Bulgaria's government and in-
12 dustry;

13 (3) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria
14 should continue to implement programs that may
15 qualify Bulgaria for entrance into the European
16 Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
17 (NATO) and is to be commended for its continuing
18 support of the NATO effort to ensure stability and
19 democratization across Europe;

20 (4) the Republic of Bulgaria is suffering the ad-
21 verse economic impact of the disruption of commerce
22 in southeastern Europe and an influx of refugees
23 caused by the conflict in neighboring Serbia;

24 (5) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria
25 should ensure the expeditious ratification of all bilat-

1 eral treaties that have been negotiated with the
2 neighboring Government of the Former Yugoslav
3 Republic of Macedonia;

4 (6) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria
5 should undertake steps to immediately halt any illicit
6 transfer of arms and military equipment that may
7 occur in Bulgaria or may cross Bulgarian territory;

8 (7) the Republic of Bulgaria should play a cen-
9 tral role in any effort by NATO to create a joint
10 peacekeeping military unit involving personnel from
11 throughout the countries of southeastern Europe or
12 in the creation of facilities in support of such a
13 peacekeeping unit; and

14 (8) the United States should join other official
15 creditors of the Republic of Bulgaria in providing
16 Bulgaria with relief from such official debt through
17 rescheduling and, where appropriate, forgiveness.

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